

MALAYSIA

1.1 Introduction

Year of ratification 1988

Organization submitting the report

- Department of Museums & Antiquities
Jalan Damansara
50566 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia

1.2 Identification of cultural and natural heritage properties

The status of national inventories

- The 'National Steering Committee on Natural & Cultural Heritage' has, in consultation with state governments, identified a number of cultural sites.

The preparation of a Tentative List

- 1 site (1998), revised in 2001.
- After obtaining approval from respective state governments, local communities and agencies can submit proposals to the National Steering Committee.
- "If the proposal meets the requirements of World Heritage Listing, then a cabinet paper is prepared in consultation with the relevant agencies." Following cabinet approval, the nomination is forwarded to UNESCO by the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Nominations and the nomination process

- 1998 2 nominations (inscribed)
(a) Kinabalu Park
(b) Gunung Mulu National Park
- 1999 * Niah Caves nomination (not examined, as it is incomplete)

1.3 Protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage

Integration of heritage and planning

- Museums & Antiquities Act 1976 (under revision).
- Local Government & Housing Act (under revision).
- State government enactment covering heritage protection.

Participation of local communities

- Awareness of local people raised through workshops, seminars, "ASP Net activities", media and forums.

Tourism Development

- 'Planned tours' are encouraged, and access to WH properties is monitored.
- NGOs & private sector invited to "dialogue sessions".

Financial measures and budget allowance

- "Financial measures are incorporated in the operating budgets of the relevant agencies." This is part of a regular budget which provides for culture and environment. No figures supplied.
- Public and private foundations receive "money through grants and donations."

Professional

- Research carried out in local universities: 'University Technology Malaysia' for built heritage; and 'University Kebangsaan Malaysia' for biodiversity.
- Training is carried out in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (APCCU) in Japan, and the Seameo Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFM) in Thailand.

New and improved services

- Training modules are currently being enhanced.

Issues to be addressed

- Current lack of co-ordination between State and Federal agencies and "non-uniformity" of laws.
- Need to increase awareness among administrators as well as collaboration with NGOs.
- Heritage legislation needs to be revised and made more effective.

1.4 International co-operation and fund raising

National and International Fund Raising

- * International Assistance from the WHF as follows:
1989 \$5,245 Preparatory, Cultural sites nomination
1990 \$15,000 Preparatory, Cultural sites nomination
\$5,000 Technical, Conference on natural sites
1998 \$12,675 Preparatory, Seminar on Convention implementation
- A Joint Malaysia-Indonesia transborder natural WH nomination for the 'Central Borneo Montane Forest' is under preparation.

1.5 Education, information and awareness-building

Information and awareness measures

- Heritage studies have been incorporated at the primary school level. Secondary school students are involved in 'ASP Net' activities related to heritage protection.

1.6 Conclusions and recommended actions

Conclusions and proposed actions

- There is focus on youth awareness raising.
- The Government is drawing up “comprehensive plans to include heritage protection, conservation and enhancement in all its development plans”.
- Specialists are required in certain areas of heritage.
- Lesson learnt: ‘Heritage lost cannot be replaced’.
- Proposal to exchange officers and share best practices.